

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABC INVESTIGATORS TEAM WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
TO ARREST SEVEN SUSPECTS FOR FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

Azusa -- Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and the Azusa Police Department arrested a total of seven suspects Wednesday night in the City of Azusa for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors.

The investigators conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing the alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is designed to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can physically damage the brain; interfere with mental and social development; interrupt academic progress; increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, and crime; compromise health; and result in unintentional injury and death.